

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
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O 180312Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0100
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00961

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UR, US, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION RE
SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. AMB MCHENRY MET WITH SOVIET PERMREP TROYANOVSKY MARCH
17 AT 1500 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SC ACTION RE THE SITUATION
IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE OUTLINED OUR VIEWS ON THE THREE
ELEMENTS FOR AN SC RESOLUTION AS PER STATE 068560, PARA 3,
NOTING THAT SAME POINTS HAD BEEN MADE IN MOSCOW, AND
EMPHASIZED OUR INTEREST IN SEEKING TO WORK TOGETHER WITH
THE SOVIETS TO PRODUCE A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME.

2. TROYANOVSKY ASKED OUR VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OR TWO
RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD SEPARATE THE ISSUES OF ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL AND RESPECT FOR LEBANESE TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY FROM THE QUESTION OF A UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE. HE
ALSO ASKED WHY THE US BELIEVED IT NECESSARY AT ALL FOR
THERE TO BE A UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION AS AN INTERMEDIATE
STEP TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF FULL LEBANESE CONTROL IN
SOUTHERN LEBANON. ON THE FIRST POINT, MCHENRY SAID THAT
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A UNSC CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING
ACTION TO MEET ISRAELI SECURITY CONCERNS WOULD NOT LEAD
TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. ON THE LATTER POINT, HE SAID OUR
IMPRESSION IS THAT LEBANESE ARMY AT PRESENT IS NOT ABLE
TO ESTABLISH ITS AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

3. TROYANOVSKY SAID THAT HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS THAT

THE USSR WOULD BE UNWILLING TO SUPPORT A UN PEACEKEEPING
ROLE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IF THE EXAMPLES OF THE SINAI AND
GOLAN WERE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, A TEMPORARY UN PEACE-
KEEPING ARRANGEMENT WOULD TURN INTO A PERMANENT PRESENCE
AND THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE WOULD ITSELF BECOME AN
OBSTACLE TO A SETTLEMENT. TROYANOVSKY THEN ASKED WHETHER
US ENVISAGED THAT UNTSO FORCES WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPANDED
IN ORDER TO ASSUME LARGER RESPONSIBILITIES IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE 1972 UNSC RESOLUTION
ON UNTSO SPECIFIED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN ASSIGNED TO
IT. MCHENRY INDICATED OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE 1972 RES
DID NOT DO SO, BUT SAID WE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK ON IT.
THE IMPORTANT POINT, HE EMPHASIZED, WAS TO HAVE THE SC
AGREE ON ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ALSO MEET ISRAELI SECURITY CONCERNS.
THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS COULD BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED
IN ONE OR TWO RESOLUTIONS WAS A TACTICAL MATTER ABOUT
WHICH WE SHOULD HOLD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. YOUNG

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